



European Union: Consultation on REACH

Guidance on fulfilling REACH requirements for the export of finished products to the EU

Deadline: 31 August 06

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08/2006

Summary

The EU has launched a public consultation on the so-called 'RIP 3.8', the guidance document for fulfilling REACH requirements for articles. The closing date for the consultation is 31 August 2006.

Scope of the Consultation

REACH, the new EU chemicals regulation is under negotiation at EU level and is expected to become national law in the 25 EU member states in 2007. The legislation will impact not only chemical producers but also businesses using chemicals for their exports to Europe.

Chemical substances in finished products (e.g. in cars, toys, textiles or computers) will have to be registered with the European Chemicals Agency if they are present in the finished product (or the so-called 'article') in quantities over 1 ton per year, and if they are released from the article (REACH, article 6.1). If the substance is not intended to be released, for example dye in clothing, the substance will have to be notified if it is 'of very high concern' according to the legislation, if it is present above 1 ton and above the concentration of 0.1%.

The EU has prepared guidelines to help companies identify if the substances contained in their articles are subject or not to registration or notification requirements under REACH. The guidance document clarifies the definition of articles, discusses concentration limits and how to determine whether an article contains substances of very high concern. It also looks at exemptions from pre-market registration and notification of substances in articles.

For more information on requirements for articles under REACH, see the CSEU REACH webpage and the document REACH 101: <http://www.buyusa.gov/europeanunion/reach.html>

The Consultation process

The [RIP 3.8 guidance document](#) and [commenting form](#) can be found on the European Chemicals Bureau website at: <http://ecb.jrc.it/REACH/> (under the section RIP projects) or requested from CSEU: flavie.guerin@mail.doc.gov. The consultation is open until **31 August 2006**.

RIP 3.8 is a key document to understand REACH obligations and prepare for compliance. Companies having the resources to comment are highly encouraged to do so.

For more information

The U.S. Commercial Service at the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium can be contacted via e-mail at: Flavie.Guerin@mail.doc.gov ; Phone: ; Fax: +32 2 513 12 28 or visit our website: <http://www.buyusa.gov/europeanunion>.

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